



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S SALMON RECOVERY OFFICE

Natural Resources Building, PO Box 43135 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3135

April 7, 2006

TO: Independent Science Panel

FROM: Bob Nichols
Senior Natural Resources Policy Advisor to Governor Gregoire

SUBJECT: Request for review of the 2006 Intensively Monitored Watersheds report

The Independent Science Panel (Panel) was created by the Legislature in 1998 to provide scientific oversight of the state's salmon, steelhead and trout recovery efforts. The purpose of this memo is to request, on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), your review and comment on the 2006 Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) draft report prepared for the SRFB via contract with the Department of Ecology.

In your service to the state, you have performed a number of reviews pertaining to salmon recovery, and monitoring of salmon recovery and watershed health.¹ After considerable deliberation, and drawing upon your previous reviews pertaining to monitoring of salmon recovery and watershed health, in 2003 the SRFB contracted with the Department of Ecology to initiate an IMW project, in collaboration with other entities. At this point in the development of the IMW program, we are seeking your independent scientific review to identify technical strengths, shortcomings, and opportunities for improvement. Your comments will be of interest not only to the SRFB, but also the Governor's Forum on Monitoring.

In your review of the 2006 IMW report, we are especially interested in your comments on the following:

1. To what extent has the development of the IMW project plan drawn upon applicable scientific literature and background information? If you are aware of additional literature or information that should be considered, please identify it and clarify why.

¹ ISP Report 2000-2: "*Recommendations for monitoring salmon recovery in Washington State*"; ISP Technical Memorandum 2002-2: "*Responses of salmon and trout to habitat changes*"; numerous advisory review products (October 2001- September 2002) to the Monitoring Oversight Committee during development of the 2002 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan.

2. To what extent does the plan suitably include the following elements:
 - a. a conceptual framework,
 - b. monitoring objectives and questions,
 - c. testable hypotheses,
 - d. experimental design(s),
 - e. sampling methods,
 - f. analytical methods, and
 - g. data management?

Please clarify how well each element is supported and consistent with the scientific information that is available. Are some key components missing or inadequately addressed; are some components unneeded or inappropriate? Are there any noteworthy aspects that you think will pose implementation challenges? If so, please explain.

3. Summarize how well you feel the IMW project will meet its objectives.
4. What are your most important recommendations for improvement of the IMW project?

We look forward to receiving your thoughts on this important component of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy. If you have any questions associated with this request, please contact Mr. Steve Leider of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office at (360) 902-2242, or email steve.leider@esa.wa.gov.

Thank you.

cc: Governor Christine Gregoire
Representative Frank Chopp, Speaker of the House
Senator Lisa Brown, Majority Leader of the Senate
William Ruckelshaus, Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Co-Chair, Governor's Forum on Monitoring
Jeff Koenings, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Co-Chair, Governor's Forum on Monitoring
Jay Manning, Director, Department of Ecology
Laura Johnson, Director, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation